



Mary Margaret Ellis Memoir (S0417)

Collection Number: S0417

Collection Title: Mary Margaret Ellis Memoir

Dates: 1980

Creator: Ellis, Mary Margaret, 1911-2008

Abstract: This collection contains the manuscript *That's the Way It Was* by Mary Margaret Ellis, a second-generation Irish American St. Louisan. The memoir includes stories of her childhood in the Soulard area of South St. Louis from 1914 to 1930.

Collection Size: 0.25 cubic foot
(1 folder)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](https://www.shsmo.org/research-center). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Mary Margaret Ellis Memoir* (S0417); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The memoir was donated to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection by Mary Margaret Ellis on June 16, 1980 (Accession No. SA2301).

Processed by: Processed by Rachael Heriford, AJ Medlock, and Isaac Alexander, October 2023

Biographical Note:

Mary Margaret Ellis was born in St. Louis City in 1911 to Walter (1881-1957) and Julia (1888-1943) Aubuchon. Ellis's maternal grandparents, John and Maggie Bohan, immigrated from County Cork, Ireland, to St. Louis during the 19th century. Ellis had five siblings: Walter Jr.

(1910-1980), Albert (1915-1971), Katherine (1916-2009), Eugene (1914-1994), and Dorothy (1926-2023). Mary married Walter E. Ellis (1908-1991), a mechanic, in 1931 in St. Louis City. The couple had two children: Diane (1939-2013) and Robert (1946-). Mary Margaret Ellis died in St. Louis, Missouri, on September 10, 2008.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into one folder.

Scope and Content Note:

The Mary Margaret Ellis Memoir contains the 96-page manuscript *That's the Way It Was*, written by Ellis in 1980, with a foreword by Robert E. Knittel. Ellis divides the memoir into nineteen chapters. The manuscript describes the experiences of her close-knit, impoverished Irish family living among other immigrant families in the Soulard area of St. Louis, Missouri, from 1914 to 1930. Ellis chronicles everyday life, childhood games, folk and popular songs, participating in the Catholic faith, schooling, and instances of domestic violence. She writes about the songs, dances, foods, stories, and superstitions in Irish immigrant culture. Ellis recounts interactions with deaf and blind individuals in St. Louis, including learning sign language to communicate with her Deaf uncle. She also recalls world events from her childhood perspective, including World War I, the Great Influenza, Charles Lindbergh's flight from New York to Paris, and the Great Depression. The memoir has been maintained in its original order.

Container List:

f. 1 *That's the Way It Was*, 1980

Index:

Index Terms	Folder
Aubuchon, Albert A., 1915-1971	1
Aubuchon, Eugene D., 1914-1994	1
Aubuchon, Julia Bohan, 1888-1943	1
Aubuchon, Walter, 1881-1957	1
Aubuchon, Walter John Jr., 1910-1980	1
Blind--United States--History	1
Deaf--United States--History	1
Depressions--1929--United States	1
Ellis, Mary Margaret Aubuchon, 1911-2008	1
Ethnic groups--Missouri--Saint Louis	1
Influenza pandemic, 1918-1919	1
Irish Americans--Missouri--Saint Louis	1
Irish Americans--Missouri--Saint Louis--History	1
Irish Americans--Missouri--Saint Louis--Social conditions	1
Krygiel, Katherine J. Aubuchon, 1916-2009	1

Index Terms	Folder
Lindbergh, Charles A. 1902-1974	1
Ragan, Dorothy G. Aubuchon, 1926-2023	1
Saint Louis (Mo.)--Biography	1
Saint Louis (Mo.)--Social life and customs	1
World War, 1914-1918	1